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including the elements of economics, shall be embraced in the branches taught in the public schools . . . ." These must be as thoroughly taught as are other required branches.

The spirit of this law is intensely practical, however much it may seem to overload the common school courses. Coöperation of all agencies of education is provided in furthering this act.

These movements are simply preliminary to a general adoption of some means of training along industrial and agricultural lines. It seems evident that the subject will have consideration from a number of legislatures in the present session.

JOHN A. LAPP.

**Elections—Identification of Voters.** The personal identification of voters, as provided by a law of New York, for cities containing one million or more inhabitants, passed at the special session of the legislature in 1908 (ch. 521), had its first tryout at the general election in November and it is believed by its friends to be an effective means of determining that the person who offers his vote at the election is the same individual who registered on the day of registration. In the city of New York it was claimed that fully 30,000 votes were usually cast fraudulently by means of repeaters. The results at the last election seem to verify the claim. In nine districts in which a large part of the fraudulent vote was believed to have been cast, the registration decreased in 1908 nearly 11,000 from that of 1906 notwithstanding the natural increase and the fact that the year 1908 was a presidential year.

The law accomplished this end by providing means of identification of the person and of his residence. In addition to the usual questions asked in other cities which require a personal registration, the voters in New York City are asked the exact place of their abode; the number of the floor or room in which they live; and the name of the householder or tenant with whom they live. In addition, columns are provided for the signatures of the voters. They are required to sign their name if they can write, and again on election day they must sign their name opposite their first signature. If the voter can not sign his name, he must answer the question on the identification statement. These relate to his personal and family history, his residence and employment. On election day the voter is asked the same list of questions. If the signatures or the answers do not correspond, the watchers may challenge the voter and the inspectors must challenge him if the watchers

do not. By these methods it is made difficult, if not impossible, for even the shrewdest repeaters to do their work of multiple voting.

JOHN A. LAPP.

**Employers' Liability.** A law recently enacted in Ohio (laws, 1908, p. 25) has modified the liability of railway companies for injuries to their employees in several important respects. The doctrines of "assumed risk" and of "common employment" have been practically abolished and the rule of "comparative negligence" has been established.

With respect to the "assumption of risk" the law makes every railroad company operating within the State liable for all damages sustained by any of its employees by reason of personal injury or death when "caused by a defect in any locomotive, engine, car, hand-car, rail, track, machinery or appliance required by such company to be used by its employees in and about the business of their employment, if such defect could have been discovered by reasonable and proper care, tests, or inspection." Proof of such defect is made presumptive evidence of knowledge thereof on the part of the company, and an employee is deemed not to have assumed the risk, although continuing in the employment of the company after knowledge of the defect and continuance in employment after such knowledge is not to be deemed an act of contributory negligence.

As regards co-employment the law establishes liability for any injury incurred by any employee while "engaged in operating, running, riding upon or switching passenger, freight or other trains, engines or cars, and while engaged in the performance of his duties" when such injury was caused "by the carelessness or negligence of any other employee, officer, or agent" of the company "in the discharge of or for failure to discharge his duties."

All questions of negligence and contributory negligence are to be left to the jury. The fact that the employee may have been guilty of contributory negligence is not to bar a recovery where his contributory negligence was slight and that of the employer was greater in comparison. But the damages are to be diminished by the jury in proportion to the amount of negligence attributable to the employee.

M. A. S.

**Futures.** A bill to prohibit the buying or selling of futures in products of the soil which are subjects of interstate or international com-